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Society do not yet proceed to a final adjudication ; but have the matter on the same ground which was specified at the meeting Dec. 21, 1787, & again recognized & farther explained at the meeting of Dec. 19, 1788."

"*Resolved*, With respect to the other pieces, agreeably to the 6th and 9th conditions for awarding the premiums, that they shall yet remain under consideration."

Churchman's printed "Address to different Societies, &c." was presented.

John Vaughan presented as from Samuel Vaughan, Jr., "sundry Philosophical curiosities," viz :

A complete statistical almanack [*sic*] of St. Domingo, on one sheet of pasteboard ; West India *Quinquina* "not so good for fever as *Red Bark* ;—Cinnamon from Jamaica, as strong as that from the East Indies ;—Bread-fruit (Pain de Singe ; Jack bread fruit) from the Isle of France ; its shell, & seeds ;—A goose quill with two feathers.

Committee of filed papers reported.

1790. Jan. 1. (17 present.)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

President—Benjamin Franklin.

Vice-President—Rittenhouse, Ewing, Smith.

Councillors—McKean, Blackwell, W. Barton, Gray.

Curators—S. Duffield, Peale, B. S. Barton.

Secretaries—Hutchinson, Magaw, Patterson, J. Vaughan.

Treasurer—Hopkinson.

"Some difficulty having arisen, in the course of this election, concerning the construction to be put, in certain cases, upon the latter clause of the Law which respects the '*Manner of electing the officers* ;'

"It was moved & seconded that according to the Constitution of the Society, a Majority of the votes of the members present is necessary to constitute the election of officers :

"This motion passed in the Negative."

[Explanation of this vote is wanting.]

1790. *Jan.* 15. (14 present.)

Election of five new members: Geo. Turner, one of the Judges of the Western Territory; Caleb Whitford,* Secretary of the British Peace Commission; Baron Hupsch of Cologne; John Walker, Professor Natural History of Edinburgh; Dr. And. Sparman,† Professor Nat. Hist. Bot., Stockholm, and “author of a Voyage to the Cape of Good Hope, and a celebrated work on Ornithology.”

Gray, Pettit, Patterson, made Auditing Committee.

Elliott displayed articles of Natural History from the Western Territory. Referred to Dr. Barton to examine and report.

Smith, Redick, Finley, Committee to draft a By-Law “to enable such of the members . . . as reside in the Western countries, to prosecute the objects of this institution with greater effect.”

Letter from Franklin to “Mr. Bodoïn of Boston” containing sundry curious queries relating to magnetism, and the theory of the Earth, was presented and read.

1790. *Feb'y* 5. (9 present.)

New By-Law read and ordered to be duly published in the newspapers for action at a subsequent meeting.

Curators ordered to catalogue and arrange “the Library, the various specimens of natural history, & other articles of their Museum, & remove them from the place in which they are at present to one of the chambers in the Society’s Building,” the Treasurer to pay necessary expenses.

Memoirs Royal Academy, Turin, 1786, 1788, presented through Franklin; also Dr. J. Ingen-Housz’s 2 Vols. “Nouvelles experiences &c.”

[Then follow five lines of MS. elaborately erased.]

* Spelled *Whitefoord* in Catalogue, March 15, 1880.

† Spelled *Sparman* in Catalogue March 15, 1880.

1790. *Feb'y* 19. (7 present.)

Dr. Hutchinson, in the absence of President and Vice-Presidents, took the Chair.

Aitkin prays relief against a demand from Kaighn & Attmore "grounded on a note granted three years ago by the Phil. Soc." Ordered to lie on the table.

Treasurer's account read: Balance January 1 in his hands £10 .. 10 .. 6.

Mr. Patterson objected to the Treasurer charging commission on sums paid by members to himself.

Treasurer had received £63 .. 14 .. 6 for two years ground rent on Premium Fund.

"An account of a hill on the borders of N. Carolina supposed formerly to have been a volcano;" letter from Dr. Greenway, of Petersburg.

"An account of a poisonous plant growing spontaneously in the Southern part of Virginia."

1790. *March* 5. (10 present.)

"After some philosophical conversation—retired."

1790. *March* 19. (5 present.)

"Foreign communications were brought in by Mr. Vaughan, but the particular and official notice of them is postponed."

1790. *April* 2. (2 present.)

[The first minute of April 16 says, "It appears that at the last stated time of meeting . . . the weather having been unfavorable, none attended except one of the Secretaries & another member."]

1790. *April* 16. (7 present.)

Committee on Treasurer's accounts reported. Report re-committed with instructions "that the Treasurer is to be

allowed the commission of £5 in the hundred on such sum as he hath, in the course of the last year, or may hereafter have any trouble in collecting himself, or of employing any person to collect."

Ordered that \$28 collected by Mr. Patterson (the Treasurer being sick), be paid Mr. R. Aitkin on account.

1790. *April 21.*

Special meeting, called by the Vice Presidents at 3½ P. M., in the Hall; twenty-three members present, who "went in procession to the funeral of their late illustrious President, Dr. Benjamin Franklin."

1790. *April 23. Special Meeting.* (19 present.)

"To consider of some Testimony of Respect to the Memory of their late illustrious President."

An Eulogy voted, to "be prepared by one of their members, to be pronounced before this Body, as soon as may be convenient."

Dr. Wm. Smith and Dr. Rittenhouse "were highest in votes" by ballot "and had each an equal number."

"These gentlemen . . . consenting that the said eulogium . . . shall certainly be prepared, it is left to themselves to determine which of them shall deliver it."

Percival's Essays, Vol. II, was presented.

Wm. Barton's letter to Rittenhouse, with "additional observations on the proportion between Births & Deaths in Philadelphia: and a Table of the number of births & deaths in the German Lutheran Congregation . . . from 1774 till 1790," was read.

A Committee to examine the laws of the Society "whether they give a power of choosing a President or other officer, in case of a Vacancy, at any time except the stated annual one" was appointed, consisting of Ewing, Willson [*sic*], W. Barton, Sargeant, Patterson, "or any three of them."

John Vaughan's proposal to rent the cellars were referred to the Building Committee.

Baron Heinitz, of Berlin, acknowledged receipt of his certificate of membership.

1790. *May 7.* (9 present.)

"Recommended to the next meeting to appoint a Committee to arrange the papers preparatory to a new Vol."

1790. *May 21.* (9 present.)

"Dr. Samuel Vaughan in the chair by special appointment."

Three pamphlets on Cochineal, presented through Mr. Hopkinson.

Mr. Hopkinson, wishing to have the balance due on his bond paid, "is under the necessity of making a demand of the same, at this time, and hath made it accordingly. The Society agrees, that this matter shall be duly attended to; and they refer it to the next Meeting."

"Mr. J. Vaughan is requested to accompany the Treasurer, in calling upon Mr. Stephen Girard in order to receive Grounds Rents [*sic*] due on account of Mr. Magellan's benefaction."

Vaughan and Peale, a Committee to ask of Printers "the terms on which another Vol. of Transactions may be printed."

Joshua Humphrey's letter describing a Machine for drying grain, on the principle of a Boulting mill; and a Steam Engine on the principle of Rumsey's Water mill, was presented by Mr. Hopkinson.

1790. *June 18.* (6 present.)

Emblematii Rottenhagii, a volume of 200 elegant copper-plate engravings printed at Utrecht, 1613, was presented through Wm. Barton, by Mr. William Spotswood, of Philadelphia.

Also "The Constitution of the Penn^a Soc. for promoting the abolition of Slavery &c"—and "An address to an Assembly of the Friends of American Manufactures," by Tench Coxe.

Committee to wait on Girard "reported that had given him one month to receive his definitive answer. Committee continued.

Committee on terms of publication "reported that M^r. R. Aitkin was willing & desirous to undertake" Vol. III, "at his own expense, reserving to the Society a number of copies for presents." Committee ordered "to inform M^r. Aitkin that the Society are pleased with his offer," and desire it in writing.

Rittenhouse, Ewing, Smith, Patterson, Dr. Barton, Hopkinson, and Wistar appointed a Committee "to prepare for publication such papers as are or may be in the possession of the Society, which they may judge worthy of appearing approved of any three of said committee"

Hopkinson's demand referred to the next meeting. Barton, Peal, Hutchinson "appointed to consider of ways & means to satisfy his demand," and report.

1790. *July 16.* (8 present.)

1790. *Aug. 20.* (5 present.)

Legacy of Franklin, 91 Vols. History of the Royal Academy of Sciences at Paris, received.

1790. *Sep. 17.* (7 present; Dr. Smith, Vice-President.)

Churchman's Navigation Chart, or Magnetick Atlas, presented.

1790. *Oct. 1.* (5 present.)

Dr. Stiles's letter (President Yale College) was read, containing several miscellaneous observations, very curious;—among others, M^r. P. Pond's Met. Obs. made near the sources

of the Mississippi;—account of certain Inscriptions or Marks* which have been discovered in the Bay of Narraganset & a drawing of the same, &c.”

“Mr. T. Franklin produced a letter & a printed paper . . . giving some account of the Discoveries of the aforesaid Mr. Pond, in the N. Western parts of this country.”

1790. Oct. 16. (7 present.)

The effects of lightning on Mr. Leiper's house at his mills near Chester, August 17, 1789, were described in a letter from Rittenhouse and Hopkinson, “a remarkable case; the house having been furnished with two conductors.”

Ludwig C. Kuhn, “late of Manheim in Germany, introduced by Peter Miller of this city,” exhibited a model, and description of a “Pile-driving Machine for erecting Water Works in or about Rivers &c., or swampy places. It is called a Ramming Block,” and “when worked up, discharges itself.”

Also, a Model of a convenient Sick Bed.

“A curious vegetable production—being ‘a Branch of a Radish incorporated with a Red Beet’ sent from Mr. Will Bradford, Cantwell's bridge, Del., was communicated.”

Sadler and Ogilby's letter was read respecting the Arch Street lot “on which they have constructed houses.”

1790. Nov. 5. (6 present.)

Thos. Pole's letter from London, 8th month, 15th (with one from his brother Ed. Pole of Philadelphia) enclosed a Print which he “had caused to be taken of a Boy lately shown in that city as a *Lusus naturæ*; also the representation of an Infant, exhibiting a similar *lusus*,” born in St. Lucia, of black parents.

“A specimen of Printing Types” from Fry & Co., letter founders, England, received.

“Philo-Franklin's” letter, “containing hints for improv-

* Probably the Dighton rock inscriptions.

ing both the upper & lower extremity of Metallic Lightning Conductors, was reported by V. P. Rittenhouse for the Annual Premium."

Ast. Roy. Nevil Maskelyne sent several tracts, among which were: "Some account of the discovery made by the late Mr. John Dolland, which led to the grand improvement of Refracting Telescopes, by Peter Dolland;" and "Account of a . . . Prismatic Micrometer, by the Rev^d Dr. Maskelyne."

1790. Nov. 19. (10 present.)

Pettit and Vaughan, Auditing Committee.

Jon. Williams' communication, "On the use that may be made of the Thermometer to discover soundings, Banks, Islands of Ice &c. illustrated by the journals of four voyages, on which the tracts are traced."

Meeting of Councillors and Officers called for Friday 26th, to examine premium papers.

1790. Nov. 26. (Officers present, Wm. Smith, Vice-President, Wm. Barton, Dr. Barton, Patterson, J. Vaughan, Duffield, Magaw.)

Report agreed upon—"That among the former communications which lie over for consideration, the Piece on 'the Invention of the Spring Block' . . . is recommended to the Society's particular notice;—also—Two pieces on the Production of Steam" (X, Y; and "Retrograde")—"Philo-Franklin's" recent Piece, was likewise recommended to the consideration of the Society.

1790. Dec. 3. (Rittenhouse, Smith, Collin, Dr. Barton, W. Barton, J. Vaughan, Magaw.)

"Philo-Franklin's" Supplementary Paper was handed in, also

A supplementary paper to the improved Steam Boiler paper of April, 1788.

T. Clifford's bill of £42 .. 1 .. 1, balance due for "Scant-

ling supplied for erecting the Philosophical Hall," was "ordered to lie on the table."

Mr. Patterson's letter and description of what he thinks would be an improved manner of applying the Springs to ships' rigging, was read.

Rittenhouse, Smith and Hopkinson appointed a Committee on the Laws of Membership, to report alterations.

The adjudication of the Annual Prize was postponed to the next meeting.

1790. *Dec. 17.* (Rittenhouse, Jones, Ruston, Dr. Collin, Dr. Barton, J. Vaughan, J. B. Smith, Dr. Smith, Magaw, Matlack.)

R. Aitkin's proposals for Transactions, Vol. III, received, read and accepted. Aitkin's letter "mentions his intention of entering upon the work as soon as the subscriptions obtained may be sufficient to purchase the Paper for the Volume."

Auditing Committee reports a balance of £28 .. 17 .. 6 in the Treasurer's hands; also £97 .. 6 .. 6, interest of Mr. Magellan's Fund for three years.

Hopkinson's letter "suggesting & illustrating the idea of measuring a ship's way."

Adjudication of Premiums:—The Officers' report was again read, and then the four Pieces [Spring Block, Retrograde, X, Y, and Philo-Franklin] "were read once more, and after due consideration had, a Vote was taken on the questions:—

1. "Do any of the papers read come within the design of the Donor?"—Affirmative.

2. "Are any of the Communications now under inspection worthy of the proposed Premium?"—Affirmative.

"The Society then proceeded; and it was determined by the concurring votes, that the Invention of the Spring Block was entitled to a premium."

"The sealed Letter then which accompanied the Performance was opened, & the name of the Author announced,

‘Francis Hopkinson;’ to whom the premium was awarded, as of the year 1787.”

“On the ground of the 11th Article of Mr. Magellan’s *Conditions*, the Society proceeded, & took a vote on the general *previous question*, as above, in regard to the *other Pieces* before them.—It was determined in the *negative*; and the business relative to these pieces, for the present, closed.”

“The papers on steam were deemed inadmissible according to the Rules; but that on Lightning Rods, worthy of special consideration hereafter.”

1791. Jan’y 7. (23 present.)

Agreed, that members with long standing arrears may begin their payments at January 1, 1783, and so downwards, agreeable to the rate of exaction from other members in the several years since.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

President—David Rittenhouse.

Vice-President—Dr. J. Ewing, Dr. W. Smith, Hon. T. Jefferson, Esq.

Secretaries—Dr. Jas. Hutchinson, R. Patterson, Jon. Williams, and Dr. Sam. Magaw.

Treasurer—J. Vaughan.

Councilmen to hold their offices for three years—Dr. Adam Kuhn, Jared Ingersoll, Esq., And. Ellicott, Dr. S. P. Griffiths, and Rev. Dr. Nich. Collin, for one year, vice Rev. Dr. Geo. Duffield, deceased.

Councillors of unexpired terms—Hon. T. McKean, Esq., Rev. Dr. R. Blackwell, W. Barton, Esq., Ch. Pettit, Esq., Is. Gray, Esq., Dr. B. Rush, and Dr. J. Jones.

Curators—Dr. S. Duffield, Dr. B. S. Barton, and C. W. Peale.

1791. Jan’y 21. (13 present.)

Rittenhouse, not present, sent a letter of thanks.

Dr. Ant. Fothergill’s (of Bath, England) paper “On the